

Snowmobile Trail Development and Program Grants**FY2009 Request: \$250,000****Reference No: 33690****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013**Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement**Contact:** Leta Simons**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2400**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor recreation activities. Funds are needed to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and to educate riders about safety concerns. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, safety education, and trail identification. Grants are to organizations, businesses, agencies, local governments, and individuals.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
VehRcpts	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA2007/CH30	\$ 200,000	Grants are being awarded
SLA2006/CH82	\$ 200,000	75% complete
SLA2005/CH3	\$ 200,000	Complete
SLA2004/CH159	\$ 200,000	Complete
SLA2003/CH82	\$ 200,000	Complete

Project Description/Justification:

These are funds paid by snowmobile registrations that were implemented with the intent to provide for snowmobile trail and trailhead development and safety education programs. Parks has provided these grants for seven years now; this request is for the program's eighth year. Grant decisions are made with the consultation of a Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC), a citizen committee appointed by the Park Director, to assist in determining which grants to fund.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked and maintained snowmobile trails. This provides safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at twice the rate of any other state. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails. It also has the potential of reducing search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespass is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails to stay on. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

Many of Alaska's snowmobile trails need to be groomed on a weekly basis to ensure the safety of riders. The grant program provides an opportunity to groom these trails and reserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

The following Snowmobile Projects have been approved for FFY07. Park and Outdoor Recreation is in the process of completing the FFY08 awards:

2007 Snowmobile Grants		
Grantee	Project Name	Grant Amount
GP Northern	Grooming Pool	\$ 30,000
GP Chugach	Grooming Pool	\$ 20,000
GP Matsu	Grooming Pool	\$ 85,000
GP Southwest	Grooming Pool	\$ 5,000
GP Southeast	Grooming Pool	\$ 1,000
Alaska Land and Sea Services	Grooming Pool - Kenai	\$ 20,000
Iron Dog, Inc	Tesoro Iron Dog Safety Inspection Festival	\$ 2,370
Iron Dog, Inc	Yenta River Winter Trails Maintenance	\$ 10,551
Curry Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club	So. Denali Snowmobile Trail Maintenance	\$ 6,090
North America Outdoor Institute	Be Snow Smart Curriculum Symposium	\$ 15,000
Total Snowmobile Grants		\$ 195,011

Specific Spending Detail:

One hundred percent of the requested funds will be spent as follows: 69% for direct grants to develop and maintain snowmobile trails; 17% for safety and education programs; and 14% for grant administration and support of the statewide Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee.

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Personal Services	\$ 30,000	State Grant Personnel
Travel	\$ 5,000	State personnel for committee support
Grants	\$ 215,000	Grants to federal and local governments and non-profit agencies.

Project Support:

Alaska State Snowmobile Association; Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance; Anchorage Economic Development Corporation; Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alaska Travel Industry Alliance; local snowmobile organizations and dealers; Division of Motor Vehicles.

Project Opposition:

None